

The National Cooperative Observer Newsletter



WINTER 1988

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EASTERN REGION

SOUTHERN REGION

CENTRAL REGION



WESTERN REGION

ALASKA REGION

PACIFIC REGION

noaa NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

ABOUT THE COVER: Weather Observer, 97, Honored for Rainy Day Volunteer Service

There are a few volunteer weather observers across the country who have been working with the National Weather Service longer than Alta James, who began her service in 1948. But there probably isn't one older, or more dedicated than the 97-year-old Maramec, Oklahoma volunteer. Recently, Mrs. James was presented a 40-year length-of-service award by John Lambert, Cooperative Program Manager for the State of Oklahoma.

Mrs. James discerning eye is not as sharp as it was when she first became a volunteer weather observer, and her gait is not as spry, but she still never fails to step into her backyard and check the rain gage. According to John Lambert, "she really walks around great and is still quite active." Congratulations to a really beautiful 97-year-old lady. Thank you, Mrs. James, for your 40 years of public service and dedication. (Tulsaworld Photo by Jerry Fink).

SOUTHERN REGION



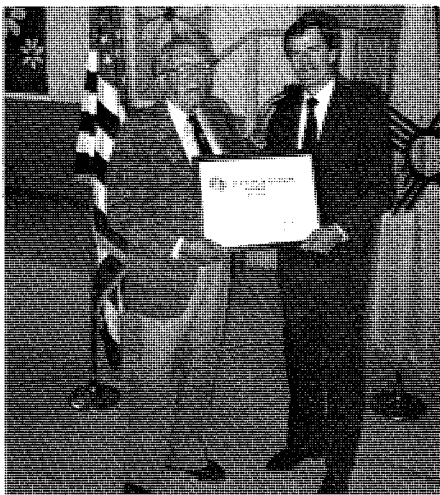
Forestry Division Received Weather Service Award

An Institutional Award for 50 years of service was presented to the Oklahoma Forestry Division from the National Weather Service for outstanding contributions to the field of meteorology at the Broken Bow Department of Agriculture Headquarters. The award included two separate 50-year service recognition awards made to Carnasaw, and Carter Mountain Tower installations. Displaying the awards are (left to right): Jerry Wolfe, Cooperative Program Manager, Fort Worth, TX; Oklahoma State Forestry Division Broken Bow Fire Control Officer Calvin Latta; Woody Currence, Cooperative Program Manager, Weather Service Forecast Office, North Little Rock; John Bain, former Broken Bow Fire Control Officer; Tom Smith, Southeast Area Forester, Broken Bow Headquarters; and Bob Manning, Regional Cooperative Program Manager, Fort Worth, TX.



James O. Hardin, Jr., second from left, Newnan, GA, expressed great joy after receiving the John Campanius Holm Award from officials of the National Weather Service. The presentation ceremony was held at a recent Kiwanis Club luncheon at Newnan, GA. John O. Laing, left, deputy Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Atlanta office; Ralph Funderburk, second from right, Cooperative Program Manager; and Gary Beeley, lead forecaster; represented the Weather Service. Mr. Hardin, a well-known and popular local broadcaster, expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the pre-imminent award. He went on to say, "Never have I taken this responsibility lightly over the past thirty-five years and it ties in beautifully with my media work and lifelong fascination with the weather." Mr. Hardin called his long public service as a volunteer observer, "a labor of love."

SOUTHERN REGION



Thomas A. Nichols, left, cooperative weather observer, Santa Rosa, NM, is shown accepting from the Honorable United States Senator Jeff Bingaman the most prestigious "Thomas Jefferson Award." The award was presented at the annual City of Santa Rosa/County of Guadalupe Employee Appreciation Banquet held at the Knights of Columbus Hall with over 150 people in attendance. Mr. Nichols' grandson, Peter Campos, Mayor of Santa Rosa, issued a proclamation honoring Thomas Arthur Nichols Day. National Weather Service representatives included Boyd White, Meteorologist-in-Charge, NM; Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Pike, Service Hydrologist; and Richard Snyder, Cooperative Program Manager, Albuquerque, NM.



Tommie Saye, cooperative observer, Clarendon, TX, received the John Campanius Holm Award this year for over 33 years of dedicated service as a cooperative observer. The award was presented by Chuck Megee (left), CPM, Lubbock, TX and Kenn Wigner (right), Ag. FCSTR. also of Lubbock WSFO at the Clarendon Lions Club luncheon. Mr. Saye enjoys keeping track of the temperatures and rainfall and prefers going out each morning and reading the thermometers over the new Digital System. Thanks Tommie, for a job well done.



Laura L. Campbell, Greenwell Springs, LA, was presented the John Campanius Holm Award at the residence of Malcolm B. Moreau, right, Cooperative Program Manager, Baton Rouge. Mrs. Campbell was treated to a catfish fry and picnic with family, friends, and members of the American Meteorological Society for Central Louisiana, in attendance along with local TV and news media. This has been an annual event at the residence of the Chairman of the AMS Chapter, Malcolm Moreau. John Mosely, Meteorologist-in-Charge, Baton Rouge, fried the catfish and is recognized to be one of the best catfish chefs in the area. The presentation of the award was made by Bill Crouch, left, Meteorologist/Area Manager, WSFO, New Orleans, LA. Also in attendance were George Cry, Hydrologist-in-Charge, RFC, Slidell, LA; and Dr. Robert A. Miller, Louisiana State Climatologist.



Inspirational! That's what a recent John Campanius Holm Award recipient communicated to a crowd consisting of doctors, nurses, hospital administrators, journalists, city, state, and weather officials. Dr. Olin T. Smythe, Jr., left, official cooperative observer at Cleburne, TX, presented an informative acceptance speech after receiving the award. He lectured to the audience on the correlation between the medical profession and the field of meteorology. Dr. Smythe ended his talk by saying, "People in the medical field, like members of the weather service try their best to help people survive and devote their life to the service of others." Thank you, Dr. Smythe, we're proud to have you and your charming wife, Estelle, as members of the cooperative observer program family. As you can see in the picture, they are a very happy couple. Mr. Tommy Trimble, deputy Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Fort Worth office made the award presentation. Cleburne Mayor Dale Hannah issued a Proclamation announcing Olin T. Smythe, Jr. Day. Bob Manning, Chief of Regional Cooperative Program Section was the Master of Ceremonies for the event. Also attending from the Weather Service were Ms. Carolyn Everitt, Quality Control Specialist and Jerry Wolfe. Mr. Wolfe was responsible for making the arrangements for the presentation.

SOUTHERN REGION



Elmer Corkin, Bogalusa, LA, accepted a 50-year Institutional Award for the Crown Zellerback Corporation this year. Pictured left to right: Billy Crouch, Meteorologist-in-Charge, WSFO/SILL1; Elmer Corkin; and Malcolm Moreau, CPM/BTR.



Evelyn M. Fuller, cooperative observer, Perryville, AL, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award by Bill Kent, CPM/BHM. Pictured: Mr. & Mrs. Fuller.



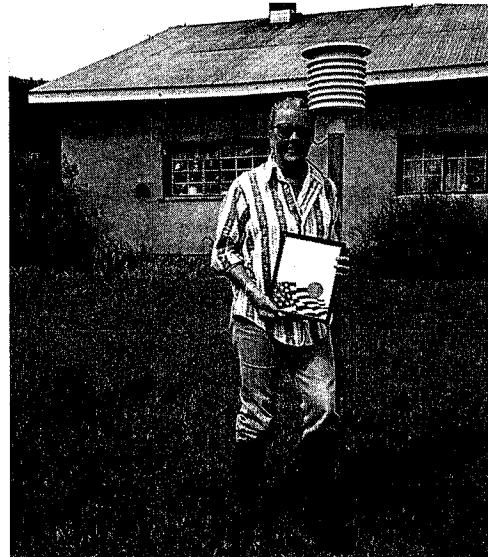
Bernard M. Walther, observer, Cabot 4 SW, AR, was recognized by the NWS for 40 years service. The presentation was made by Woody Currence.



Lonnie R. Norris, cooperative observer, Oneonta, AL, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award by Frank Makosky, MIC/AM, WSFO/BHM. Pictured: Mr. & Mrs. Norris.



Jack L. Fillebaum was presented a 30-year length-of-service award by Tice Wagner III, AM/MIC, WSFO, Jackson, MS. Mr. Fillebaum does the river and rainfall readings for the Big Black River in Bovina, MS. Thom Stenman is the Cooperative Program Manager.

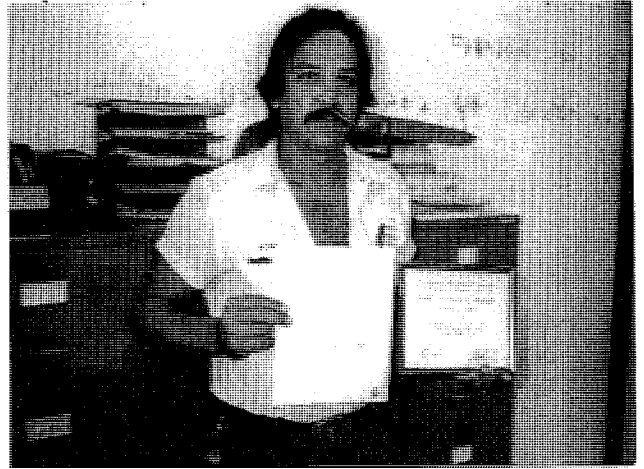


Edith A. Bartley, cooperative observer, Gascon, NM, was presented a 25-year length-of-service award by Dick Snyder, CPM/ABQ.

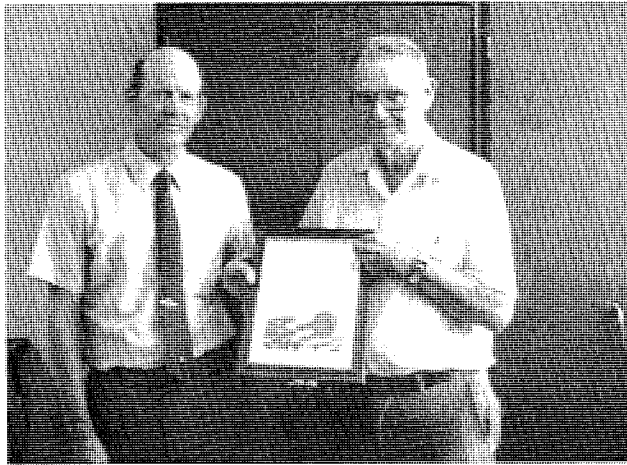
SOUTHERN REGION



Raiford C. McCool, cooperative observer, Reform, AL, was presented a 25-year length-of-service award by Bill Kent. Pictured: Mr. & Mrs. McCool.



Antonio Leal accepted a 25-year Institutional Award on behalf of himself and crew of the City of Edinburg, Texas Water Plant. John Shelton, CPM, San Antonio, made the presentation.



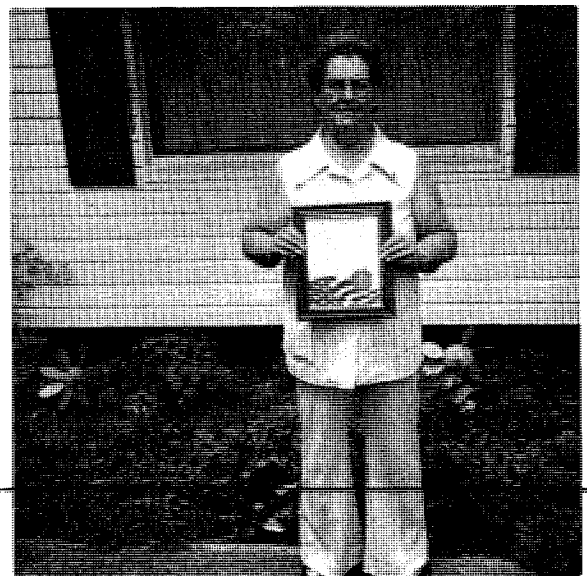
Charles R. Porter (right), cooperative observer, Highland Home, AL, was presented a 25-year length-of-service award by Paul Pettit, MIC/MGM.



Loretta B. Eubanks, cooperative observer, Lyons 2 N, OK, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award by Woody Currence.

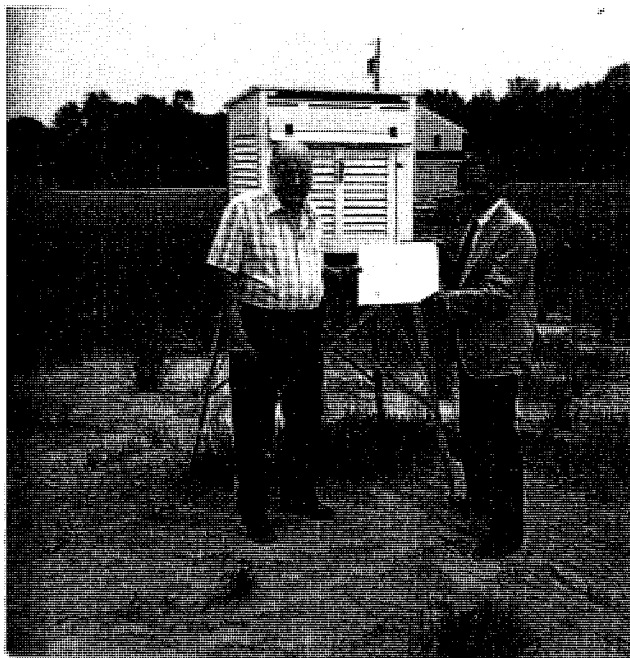


Audrey Varga, cooperative observer, Carta Valley, TX, was presented a 25-year length-of-service award by Dale Reed, OIC, Del Rio WSO, CPM/SAT.



Helen Ventle, cooperative observer, Quapaw, OK, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award by Woody Currence.

EASTERN REGION

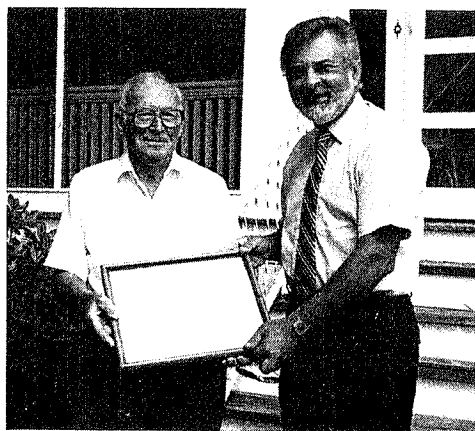


Edward Entwistle, observer, Indian Mills, NJ, was presented the Edward H. Stoll Award and a 50-year length-of-service pin in recognition of his long and outstanding record. Jay Krieger, OIC, WSO, Atlantic City, NJ, made the presentation. Photo left to right: Edward Entwistle and Jay Krieger. This award was named for the Elwood, NE farmer who was an observer for more than 70 years. Photo by James Smith, CPM, Baltimore, MD.



William L. Culp, observer, Winthrop College, SC, was presented the John Campanius Holm Award for his long period of outstanding accomplishments in the field of meteorological observations. This award is presented annually to only 25 of the nearly 12,000 Cooperative Weather Observers in the United States. Presentation was made by Earl Rampey, Cooperative Program Manager, Columbia, SC.

Mr. Culp is Assistant Vice President for Campus Renovation and Special Projects at Winthrop College, SC.



Vincent C. Galligan, observer, Oakland Valley, NY, was presented the John Campanius Holm Award for outstanding accomplishments in the field of meteorological observations.

Roland Guy Loffredo, Area Manager and Ray West, Cooperative Program Manager, Albany, NY, made the presentation. Photo: Vincent Galligan, left, and Roland Loffredo, right. Photo by Ray West, CPM, Albany, NY.



Isabel Whitney, observer, South Newbury, VT, was presented the John Campanius Holm Award for her long period of outstanding accomplishments in the field of meteorological observations.

James Donahue, Cooperative Program Manager, Portland, ME, made the presentation.



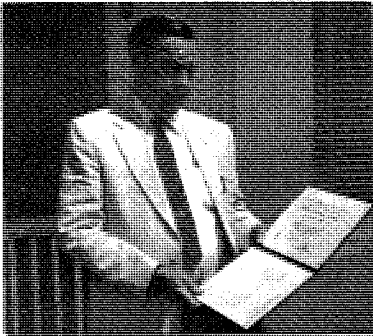
Gilman W. Ford, cooperative observer, West Burke, VT, was presented a letter from the Director of the National Weather Service Eastern Region for 55 years of taking weather observations for the National Weather Service. Photo by James Donahue.

EASTERN REGION



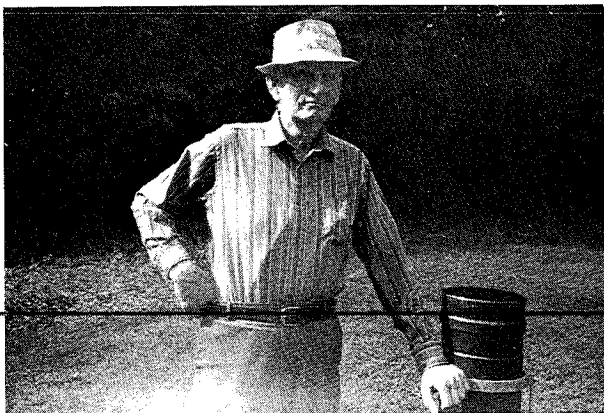
James Linville was presented a 25-year Institutional Award on behalf of the Consolidated Gas Supply Corporation, Kooperston, WV.

Presentation was made by Alan Rezek, Area Manager and David Keller, Hydrologic Cooperative Program Manager, Charleston, WV. Photo left to right: Alan Rezek, James Linville, Supervisor; Carl Day, Engine Repairman; and Lenny Hartshorn, Compressor Station Operator.



Forrest Ramsey, Manager of Radio Station WJAY, Mullins 4 W, SC, was presented a 25-year Institutional Award by Earl L. Rampey.

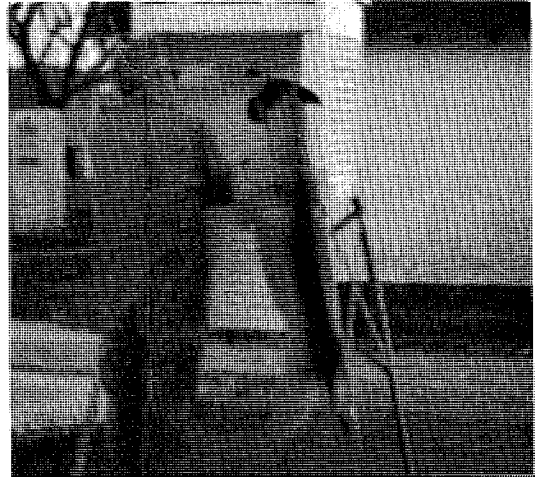
Ramsey who also serves as Mayor of Mullins, SC is and has been assisted by Mrs. Ramsey and son Art as well as other members of the WJAY staff. They provide 24 hour temperature extremes as well as precipitation and soil temperatures daily to the National Weather Service in Columbia, SC for use in the agricultural weather and hydrologic programs. The weather observational program provided by Forrest Ramsey and his staff has been outstanding. It is appreciated by the community as well as the NWS. A truly fine example of public service.



Francis T. Sheedy, observer, Bethlehem, NH, was presented a 20-year length-of-service pin by James Donahue.



Curtis Shockley, observer, Snow Hill 4 N, MD, was presented a 20-year length-of-service pin by James Smith.



Mr. Shockley's dog wants to know "What's the temperature today?"



Carl E. Kreyenbuhl, observer, Cacapon State Park, WV, was presented a 10-year length-of-service award by James Smith.

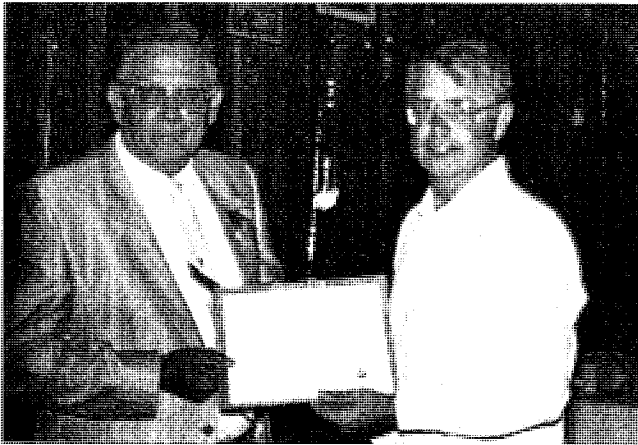
WESTERN REGION



Frank Cirmhagl, Jr. (right), Roy, MT, was presented the Stoll award and a 50-year length-of-service award by Great Falls MIC Dave Olsen. In 1981 Frank received the Thomas Jefferson award, the highest honor given a cooperative observer.

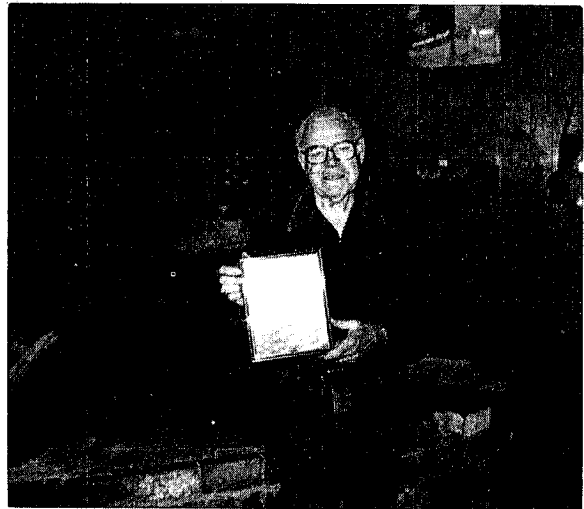


Don Coons (right), Shelby, MT, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award by David Olsen (left).



Beuford (Brad) Bradley (left), was presented a Special Service Award by James Christopherson, Ag Forecaster, Riverside, CA WSO. The presentation was made on the occasion of Brad's retirement from the Imperial Irrigation District after 35 years. He was Water Master, and was affectionately called "Weather Master," for the last 21 years.

Brad helped the NWS with coordination of the cooperative weather stations operated by the Imperial Irrigation District.



Pat Dorsey, Orick, CA, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award, by Rick Orres, CPM, San Francisco WSO.



R.C. Setterstrom (right), Butte, MT, was presented a 35-year length-of-service award by MIC Grayson Cordell (left), Helena WSO. Myrtle Setterstrom, (center), holds the certificate.

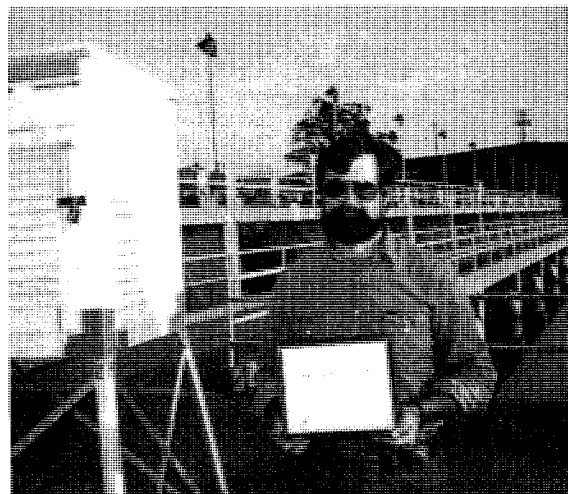


Nelson H. Palmer, observer, Priest Valley, CA, located about 20 miles from Coalinga, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award by Rick Orres.

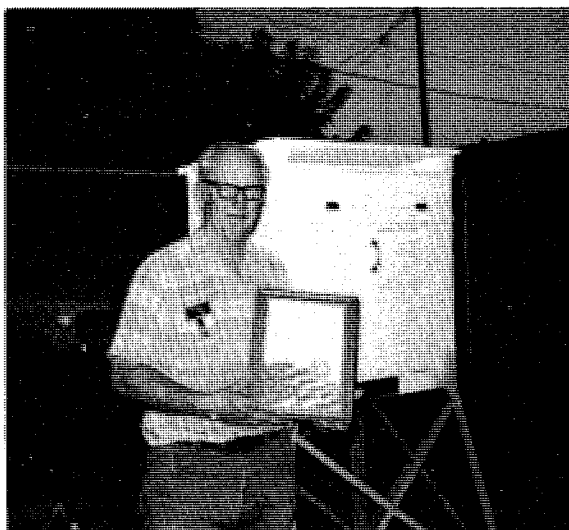
WESTERN REGION



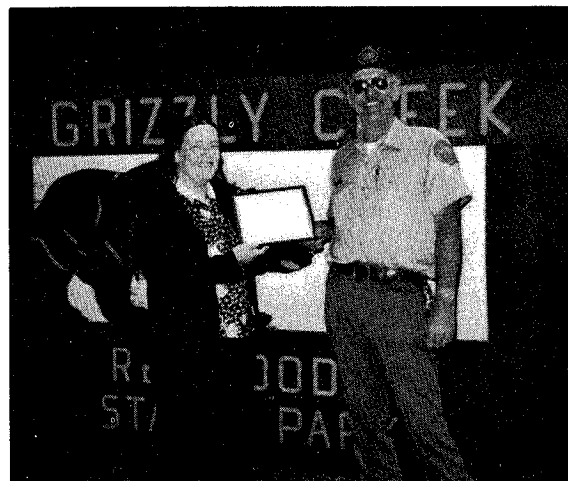
Joe and Vera Breider, observers, Eltopia 8 WSW, WA, were presented a 25-year award by Washington CPM Earl Pickering. Although Vera is the official observer, she and Joe share the weather duties.



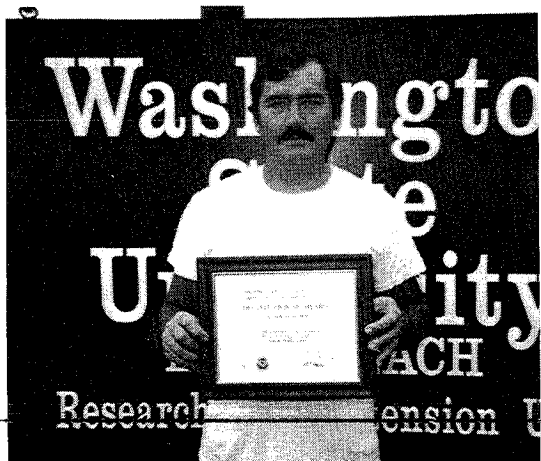
Jay Shepard accepted a Special Service Award honoring the Bureau of Reclamation's Lake Solano Station, CA, for 25 years of service.



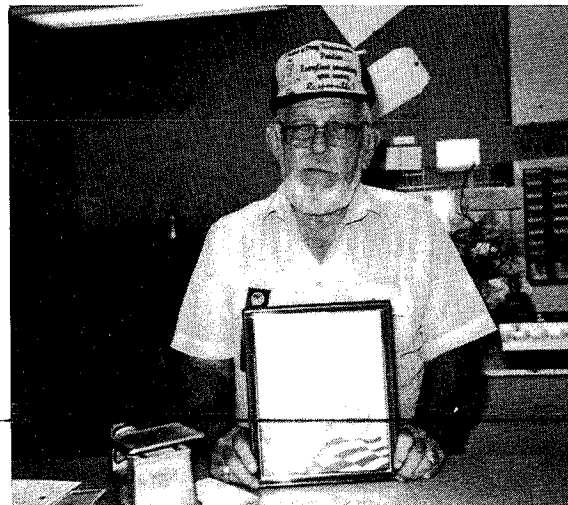
J. Newton Wallace, Winters, CA, was presented a 25-year length-of-service award.



California's Grizzly Creek State Park received a 25-year Institutional length-of-service award. Don Gray, observer for the past five years, accepted the award which was presented by Wanda Likens, MIC, Eureka WSO.



Richard Brenenstahl accepted a 25-year length-of-service award for the Long Beach, WA, Experiment Station. Not shown in photo but much appreciated are Edie Shire, John Wang, and Azmi Shawa, the county extension agent.



Jack G. Clark, Orleans, CA, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award by Rick Orres.

ALASKA REGION

Since the last issue of the Newsletter a climate station was installed at Ouzinkie on Spruce Island north of Kodiak. Thanks to the effort of Bob Bonner, OIC at WSO Kodiak, a prospective observer was located for another climate station at Council, northeast of Nome. Through the effort of Vi Capell, OIC at Nome, the U.S. Customs at Mile 40 of the Haines Highway have requested a climate station at the Canadian Border. The backorders of equipment will hold up the Council and Haines locations. The Sand Point Aviation and Cooperative stations were relocated approximately 900 feet south to the new RAA Terminal Building.

The snowsticks which were scheduled to have been restocked in September, still have not been received. We have purchased some yardsticks for waiting observers to use until the snowsticks do arrive. The observers were cautioned to make all entries in tenths of an inch.

January 1, 1989 a new address change will be in effect for the National Weather Service Regional Headquarters. The new mailing address for the Cooperative Program Manager will be:

Regional Cooperative Program Manager
National Weather Service
222 West 7th Avenue #23
Anchorage, AK 99513-7575.



Koyuk on the Koyuk River Airstrip located North of town.



John Leonard, Postmaster - Koyuk Cooperative Observer.



White Mountain on the Fish River Airstrip located North of town.



Robert Lincoln, Postmaster - White Mountain Cooperative Observer.

CENTRAL REGION



Dorothy G. Gerardy, Clay Center, KS, was presented the John Campanius Holm Award for outstanding accomplishments in the field of meteorological observations. Presentation was made by Jack May, Kansas Area Manager.



Thomas W. Wilson, Lincoln 1 ESE, KS, was presented the John Campanius Holm Award for faithfully reporting and recording the weather for over 28 years. Pictured with Mr. Wilson are Mary Beth, his wife, and Jack May. Mary Beth's father, Rockwell W. Greene, began taking observations at Lincoln in 1912 and the station has remained in the same family since that time.

CENTRAL REGION



Vivian Maxwell, cooperative observer, Ashland, NE, was presented the John Campanius Holm Award. Pictured left to right: Arthur Strong, AM/MIC WSFO/OMA; Heather Barnett, granddaughter of observer Vivian Maxwell, cooperative observer; Dr. Ken Hubbard, University of Nebraska climatologist; Thomas Sinclair, CPM, Omaha; and George Matrolla, SMT, WSFO, Omaha.



Erwin Wittrock, the National Weather Service's volunteer weather observer at Brookings, SD, is one of 25 observers selected to receive the John Campanius Holm Award.



The AM(MIC) WSFO Indianapolis presented William Keller of Shoals, Indiana a Holms award at the evening meeting of the Shoals Lions Club on September 26, 1988. Representing the National Weather Service was John T. Curran, AM(MIC) WSFO Indianapolis; Albert P. Shipe, Jr., Service Hydrologist WSFO Indianapolis; John P. Hennek, former CPM WSFO Indianapolis; and Edward C. Yess, III, Hydrologist RFC Cincinnati. In attendance were his wife, several members of his immediate family and the Shoals Lions Club. Mr. and Mrs. William H. Keller, observer and backup observer were also presented a 30-year length-of-service award by Roger K. Kenyon, CPM, IND.

Mr. Wittrock has been a volunteer weather observer for more than 36 years. He began taking observations in April 1952. His reports consist of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, daily precipitation, and evaporation readings from spring until fall. He frequently checks a recording precipitation gage to make sure it is operating properly, and changes the tape at the beginning of each month. His daily observations are phoned directly into the National Weather Service computer at Sioux Falls, SD. Daily observations are compiled and published in weekly agricultural forecast and summaries, issued by the National Weather Service, and the Department of Agriculture. Monthly reports are forwarded to the National Climatic Center at Asheville, NC, and the South Dakota Climatology Office, located at the South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD. The reports are published in studies of the weather and climate of South Dakota.

The award was presented to Mr. Wittrock on November 23, by Rollin Mannie, South Dakota Area Manager; Clifford Millsapps, Service Hydrologist; and David Olkiewicz, Cooperative Program Manager; all from the National Weather Service office in Sioux Falls, SD. "Register" photo by Dave Behle.



A plaque and letter were presented to the Illinois State Water Survey on August 17, 1988, for completing 100 years of recording weather information in Urbana, IL.

Ray Waldman, MIC(AM) WSFO, Chicago, IL, presented the award. Accepting the award for the Water Survey was Richard Semonin, Chief, Water Survey. Picture provided by James Schroeder, RCPM, CRH, Kansas City, MO.



Jiggs and Ruth Alexander, cooperative observers, Saquache, CO, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary during July 1988. The Alexanders have been with the program since June of 1981 and have provided accurate and timely data on the San Luis Valley.

The picture was taken by Harvey Teylor, the OIC of WSO Alamosa, during the celebration.

CENTRAL REGION



Arnold Buettner probably knows more about 20th century weather in Langlade County than anyone else alive. Buettner was honored recently by the National Weather Service for 30 years as a volunteer cooperative observer, a program through which the weather bureau keeps track of temperatures and precipitation nationwide.

That's certainly nice enough, but Buettner's been studying and reporting on the weather far longer than that - for 54 of his 78 years to be exact.

Buettner started formal weather observing for the Fire Weather Service in 1934, during a stint as a forest ranger in White Lake. His duties included taking the maximum and minimum temperatures, measuring wind direction and velocity, checking participation and observing sky cover three times daily. His contacts with the weather service gave him a ticket to the United States Navy during World War II. He had never studied formally, but an instructor loaned him a textbook to read prior to a Navy test.

"I studied it until two or three in the morning," he remembers. "I was exhausted. They had to give me the exam orally." Once in the Navy, he received specialized meteorological training for three months. Then he served in the South Pacific, charting weather for fighter pilots and riding out seven typhoons. "The winds were 126 miles an hour," he says. Still, he remembers his military service fondly. "You're working closely with people," he says. "Those are my best memories." After his military service, he returned to his forest ranger duties and became a weather observer for the National Weather Service. The work is simpler than the Fire Weather Service, with Buettner taking 8 a.m. temperatures, the maximum and minimum for the day, and precipitation. He makes monthly reports. He also occasionally gives reports to crop service groups throughout the midwest.

Over the years he remembers a few records, such as the days in the 1930's when he reported 102 degree reading in Antigo for four days in a row or when a rainstorm dropped over three inches of rain on the city in 20 minutes.

In January 1948 he recorded a temperature of 36 degrees below zero at Antigo. "That was Antigo's hundred year record at that time," he says. "I remember that perfectly because my daughter was born that night and there was a power shortage and the doctor couldn't get to the hospital." Other records include the February 1951 high water mark on the Wolf River and the July precipitation record of 10.27 inches, and the frigid temperature reading of 47 degrees below zero earlier this decade.

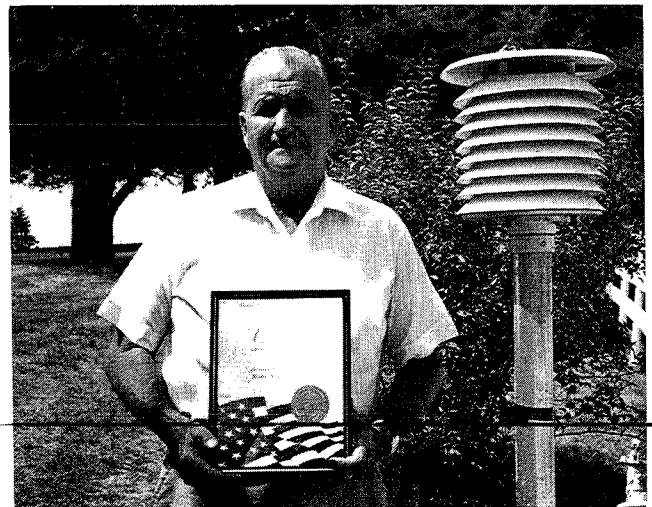
He has also watched numerous tornadoes, including twisters near Neva and the Eau Claire River in the 1930's and the 1970 storm at McGee that demolished a barn and killed livestock. "We worked all night trying to rescue some cattle," he says. "We saved some, but they were all crippled." Buettner retired as a forest ranger in 1970 and now lives at the edge of a woods near Four Corners. He has no intention of retiring from his weather duties, stating that "I'll continue as long as I'm able."



David A. Huber (right), cooperative observer, Hartford City 4 NW, IN, was presented a 30-year length-of-service award by John T. Curran, Area Manager for the National Weather Service, Indianapolis, IN.



Paul Beyerink, cooperative observer, Municipal Utilities, Coon Rapids, IA, accepted a 25-year Institutional length-of-service award. The award was presented by Bill Newman, CPM/DSM.



George E. Carpenter, Perry 3 N and 4 S, IA, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award by Bill Newman.

CENTRAL REGION



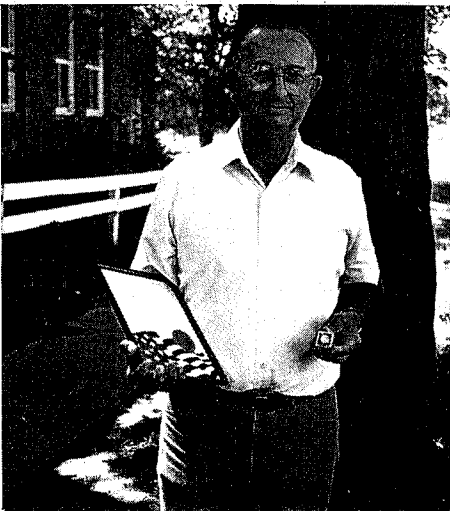
Perry Creek Cranberry Company of Black River Falls, WI, was recently acknowledged by the National Weather Service for 25 years of service.

According to owner Kay Finch, it was her mother, Ruth Roberts who began reporting the weather as a cooperative weather observer 25 years ago, and did so for 15 years. Ten years ago, Kay took over the job, and she said their company is one of five companies which observes the weather and calls into Milwaukee every morning.

"We report the high of the past day, the low overnight, and the high in the cranberry bog. Milwaukee puts it all together as a cranberry forecast, which enables growers to get more ideas about protection from frost, and the temperatures on the marsh," Finch said.

She said the award was a pleasant surprise. "We call in the weather for six months out of the year, although the weather service has cooperative weather observers throughout the whole United States that work all year," she said. According to Wayne Hagan, Cooperative Program Manager for the National Weather Service, "The NWS furnishes the instruments for observations taken by over 12,000 volunteer observers who regularly contribute their time so that their own and future generations may benefit by the steady accumulation of climatological information."

Hagan said the records the weather observers keep are used constantly to answer questions and guide the actions of public agencies, agricultural and commercial organizations, and individuals.



Robert J. Chabal, cooperative observer, Grundy Center, IA, was presented a 20-year length-of-service award by Bill Newman.



Mr. and Mrs. Charlie C. Crooks, cooperative observers, Ionia 2 W, IA were presented a 10-year length-of-service award by Bill Newman.



Dr. Galen J. Eiben, cooperative observer, Shell Rock 2 W, IA, was presented a 10-year length-of-service award by Bill Newman.

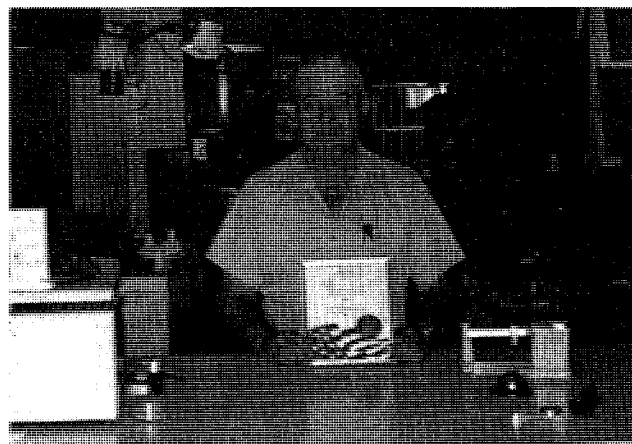


Paul E. Fobian, cooperative observer, New Hartford, IA, was presented a 10-year length-of-service award by Bill Newman.

CENTRAL REGION



Michael Overturf, Clay Center 6 ESE, NE, was presented a 10-year award by Tom Sinclair.



William Welch, cooperative observer, Pawnee City, NE, was presented a 10-year award by Tom Sinclair.

TIPS TO COOPERATIVE OBSERVERS

DID YOU CHANGE YOUR TIME OF OBSERVATION?

Please notify your cooperative program manager (CPM) whenever you change the usual time you take your 24-hour temperature or precipitation observations. Please do this even if the change is only one hour; i.e., from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The CPM must know this in order to enter the change in the National Climatic Data Center and National Weather Service computer data bases. The time of observation is very important to climatologists, researchers, and other users of your data.

If you changed your observation time just for one day, please record this time on your E-15 Form in the column headed by "Time of observation if different from above."

When the time changes from standard to daylight savings or back to standard, we assume you will continue to report at the same local time; that is, if you report at 6 p.m. standard time, you will report at 6 p.m. daylight savings time when the clock is moved up an hour. You do not need to inform your CPM of this. You do need to inform him, for example, if you change from 6 p.m. standard to 7 p.m. daylight time.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA, AND INFORMATION SERVICE
NATIONAL CLIMATIC DATA CENTER
FEDERAL BUILDING
ASHEVILLE, N.C. 28801

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POSTAGE & FEES PAID
United States Department Of Commerce
NOAA Permit No. G - 19